



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
National Historic Site  
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## National Park Service News Release

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### ***BRONZE SCALE MODEL OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL NOW ON EXHIBIT AT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NHS IN ATLANTA, GA***

In honor of the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site has on exhibit for the viewing public a bronze scale model of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial stone. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site has partnered with the King Center to exhibit the bronze scale model of the new Memorial in the atrium of the National Park Service Visitor Center at 450 Auburn Avenue. The bronze stone features King's image appearing to be cut out of the "mountain of despair" behind him, representing his emergence as a "stone of hope" for the nation.

The delivery of the "I Have a Dream" speech, in which King called for racial equality and an end to discrimination, proved to be a defining moment of the modern American Civil Rights Movement. Presented to over 200,000 civil rights supporters, King's speech offered the nation hope that all Americans could "make real the promises of democracy." King recognized the ugly climate of racial prejudice in the United States, but still promoted a message of optimism and uplift, when he said "with this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Judy Forte, Superintendent of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, commented, "the National Park Service will have the great honor and responsibility of preserving the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his birth in 1929 in a segregated Atlanta neighborhood of the Jim Crow south, to the National Mall in his honor at our nation's Capitol. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Mall will present an enduring symbol of Dr. King's message of peace, justice, and equality for all Americans."

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was established by congress in 1980 to “preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of this and future generations the places where Martin Luther King, Jr. lived, worked, worshipped, and where he is buried.” Visitors to the Atlanta site can tour King’s Birth Home, the Sweet Auburn neighborhood in which he grew up, the newly restored Heritage Sanctuary of Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where King co-pastored with his father, and the tomb monument of Dr. King and his late wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King. From now until the end of the year, visitors to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site will also be able to see a bronze scale model of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial stone.

Due to their distinct locations, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial will be administered by the National Park Service’s National Capitol Region, while the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site is managed by the Southeast Region. According to Superintendent Forte, “Both sites will work to preserve, protect, and interpret the life and legacy of one of America’s greatest leaders, and one whose lasting contributions to the nation will not be forgotten.”

For more information on upcoming exhibits and events at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, visit [www.nps.gov/malu](http://www.nps.gov/malu) or call (404) 331-5190.

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